

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, the 15th March 1965.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at half past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (The Hon. Sri S. CHELLAPANDIAN) in the Chair.

I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Air Service at Madurai

* 5 S.N.Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the present air services a Madurai has been completely removed from the Summer Schedule of the Indian Airlines Corporation effective from 1st April 1965; and

(b) if so, whether the State Government have taken up the matter with Indian Airlines Corporation authorities to restore the existing air services at Madurai?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (a) & (b) The correct position is as follows:—

The runway at Madurai is under repairs and hence the Focker Friendship aircraft cannot land there now. It will take a few months to get it ready for receiving F-27 (Focker Friendship aircraft). During the interim period when the repairs are under way, the Indian Airlines Corporation are providing Dakota Air Service from Madras to Madurai and back. With effect from 1st April 1965, the flight from Madras will depart at 9-40 a.m. and arrive at Madurai at 11-30 a.m. It will leave Madurai at 11-50 a.m. and return to Madras at 1-40 p.m. The timings are so fixed as to facilitate connection to through passengers to and from Delhi by Caravelle Flight Service. With effect from 1st April 1965 the Caravelle flight arrives at Madras 8-45 a.m. from Delhi and the Caravelle Service to Delhi from Madras departs at 3-30 p.m.

As soon as the runway is got ready after repairs, the Focker Friendship Service to Madurai will be restored.

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: In view of the discontinuance of the steamer service between Dhanushkodi and Talaimannar, will the Hon. Chief Minister be pleased to take up with the authorities of the Indian Airlines Corporation the question of having a flight between Colombo and Madurai?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The hon. Member may put a separate question.